Assistance for development of science and technology in Sikkim

4230. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA. Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the details of financial assistance along with incentives granted by Government for development and promotion of science and technology in the North Eastern Region particularly in the Sikkim during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): As per the available official statistics, the Union Government has provided Rs. 1291 lakh, Rs. 1182 lakh and Rs. 1143 lakh for research and development projects during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively in the North Eastern Region. In the State of Sikkim financial support of the order of Rs. 26 lakh, Rs. 5 lakh and Rs. 37 lakh has been provided to academic and research institutions for the respective years.

In addition to research and development projects, the Union Government has also supported plasma pyrolysis plants for waste disposal, micro hydel plants, water purification plants, patent information centres, etc. in North Eastern Region including the State of Sikkim.

Discovery by Scientists

4231. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state

(a) whether the scientists of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) Hyderabad, proved that junk DNA does contain so many secrets;

(b) if so, the details of the discovery thereof; and

(c) to what extent this sensational discovery would help in human genome project?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The current study at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) presents unequivocal evidence, for the first time that junk DNA of the Y chromosome, in fact regulates the function of a gene present on another chromosome. This is the first demonstration of the function for Y junk.

(c) CCMB scientist demonstrated for the first time that at least one kind of repetitive or Junk DNA (GATA repeats) mark boundaries that functionally divided the genome into autonomous domains. Furthermore, these repeats function as landmark in the genomic landscape to establish communication among genes that need to be regulated in a coordinated manner. A high abundance of such repeats of human Y chromosome and their association with genes may function as switch allowing such genes to be expressed in a coordinated manner. CCMB discoveries have paved the way for unraveling the function of the major constituent of our genome, that is the junk DNA.

Scheme for availability of power in rural areas

†4232. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new scheme to increase the availability of power in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the said scheme and the target fixed for increasing the availability of power under the said scheme; and

(c) the total number of phases in which the said target will be achieved and the time-frame fixed for each phase?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) No new scheme other than the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana has been formulated by the Ministry of Power to increase the availability of power in rural areas of the country.

Filing of patents

†4233. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that many scientists in the country undertake research work by means of continuous hard work

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.